GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1718
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Foreign Countries for Skill India
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Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government requires both knowledge and Financial Support from foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the United Kingdom has expressed its interest in investing in India for skilling projects under the UK-India Education and Research initiative;

(d) if so, the amount of investment UK intends to make over the next five years, sector-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

(a) to (b) While financial support from foreign countries for Skill India, is welcome, India primarily seeks technical expertise and knowledge of global best practices in skill development, across sectors equip youth with world class skills to make them employable. Hence Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is working closely with countries such as Germany and United Kingdom, to leverage their experience and establish world class skill training facilities in India.
(c) The UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) was initiated in April 2006 with the aim of enhancing Educational Links between India and the UK. The programme aims to deliver systemic changes in the educational and vocational training ecosystem, by focusing on capacity building and leadership development within these institutions. Phase II of this initiative runs from 2011-2016. As 'Skill Development' is one of the core themes of UKIERI Phase II, an MoU was signed between The Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), UK and MSDE in April 2015.
(d) and (e) UKIERI is jointly funded by the governments of India and UK. UKIERI Phase II is in its final stages and discussions on UKIERI Phase III are in the process of being held and the financial commitments from the Indian and UK side are under negotiation are yet to be finalised. In addition, MSDE is working closely with British High Commission and UK India Business Council to get British Companies in India to commit resources, knowledge and expertise to skilling young Indians. On 03 December 2015, HSBC (a UK based Bank) launched a Skills for Life programme in India, with a commitment of INR 100 crores towards skilling 75,000 Indians over a five period.